

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 14449 271759Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4838

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14449

EXDIS

SECTO 157

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: US-BD JOINT STATEMENT

REF: DACCA 4863

1. SECRETARY PREFERS THAT JOINT STATEMENTS AVOID MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY ISSUES THAT ARE OF CONTENTION AMONG COUNTRIES OF SUB-CONTINENT, JUST AS HE PREFERS AVOID REFERENCE TO NON-BILATERAL ISSUES ON WHICH VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED WOULD DIFFER.
 2. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD TELL BANGLADESH FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT HIS PROPOSED COUNTERDRAFT IS ACCEPTABLE TO US WITH EXCEPTION OF THAT SENTENCE OF FOURTH PARAGRAPH EXPRESSING "THE HOPE THAT THE REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINING 63,000 FAMILIES FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN WOULD BE COMPLETED SOON."
 3. THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT MEAN WE ARE UNSYMPATHETIC TO BANGLADESH POINT OF VIEW ON THIS QUESTION. RATHER WE WISH KEEP LID TO PANDORA'S BOX CLOSED ON REFERENCE TO CONTENTIOUS SUB-CONTINENT MATTERS IN JOINT STATEMENTS. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THIS TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, POINTING OUT THAT SIMILAR SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE
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ALSO BEEN TURNED DOWN. IF WE INCLUDED THIS SENTENCE IN

DACCA JOINT STATEMENT, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT PAKISTAN WOULD SEEK SOME BALANCING LANGUAGE IN ISLAMABAD STATEMENT DIRECTED AT BANGLADESH. BY REFERRING TO THE "PARTICULAR PLEASURE" OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN THE REPATRIATION OF 241,000 PERSONS AND HAVING BOTH SIDES EXPRESS THE HOPE IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THAT PARAGRAPH THAT "ALL REMAINING ISSUES" SHOULD BE SETTLED, WE BELIEVE BANGLADESH DESIRE FOR SOME PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SYMPATHY IS ADEQUATELY MET.

4. WE AGREE TO SIGNING PROCEDURE ON OPIC MATTER SUGGESTED DACCA 4684, SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CHANGES IN DRAFT AGREEMENT.
KISSINGER

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